



STRATEGIC PLANNING COUNCIL

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Ammerman Campus
William J. Lindsay Life Sciences Building, Room 114

MINUTES

In attendance:

Nina Acquavita	Dr. Liesl Jones	David Schneider
MaryLou Araneo	Theodore Koukounas	Christina Vargas
Dr. Edward Bonahue	Thomas Law	Carol Wickliffe-Campbell
Kaliah Greene	Dr. Patty Munsch-Eilbeck	Dr. Helen Wittmann
Lisa Hamilton	Isaac Oddoye	
Dr. Mark Harris	Dr. Irene Rios	

Professor Theodore Koukounas began the meeting at 3:51pm.

- He welcomed the membership to the first meeting of the spring semester. He also welcomed Lisa Hamilton to her first SPC meeting.
- The Mission and Vision Subcommittee has been meeting regularly. An update on their progress will be presented today.
- The minutes from December 15, 2022, were not ready. They will be emailed to the membership for an electronic vote at a later date.

Dr. Edward Bonahue presented the Mission and Vision update:

- A draft version of potential mission and vision statements was presented to the membership.
 - Mission Statement 1: SUNY Suffolk is a student-centered college community that serves the needs of Suffolk County and beyond by providing open access to outstanding educational opportunities.
 - Mission Statement 2: SUNY Suffolk is a student-centered college community serving the needs of Suffolk County and beyond by providing open access to exceptional educational opportunities.
 - Vision Statement 1: SUNY Suffolk is the preferred ~~and preeminent~~ educational partner for all Suffolk County families, businesses, and communities.
 - Vision Statement 2: SUNY Suffolk will be the education partner of choice for Suffolk County families, businesses, and communities.

Suffolk County Community College promotes intellectual discovery, physical development, social and ethical awareness, and economic opportunities for all through education that transforms lives, builds communities and improves society.

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(631) 451-4112

Ammerman Campus
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Grant Campus
Crooked Hill Road
Brentwood, NY 11717-1092
(631) 851-6700

Eastern Campus
121 Speonk-Riverhead Road
Riverhead, NY 11901-3499
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- The members discussed the mission and vision statements, with several members voicing which of the statements they liked and why. The general consensus was that the draft statements as presented today are ready for further discussion and feedback from the college community.
- The draft mission and vision statements will be presented to the college community during this semester's town hall meetings on February 22nd (East), March 8th (Grant), and March 15th (Ammerman). Participants can attend in person or via Zoom. Please encourage students to attend these meetings so we can get their feedback as well. All feedback gathered during these town halls will be brought back to the subcommittee to see if any changes are necessary.
- A conversation took place about referring to the College as SUNY Suffolk instead of Suffolk County Community College, with most members preferring "SUNY Suffolk". Even our students prefer the name "SUNY Suffolk". Including "SUNY" in our name ties us to the established SUNY system, which most people don't realize we are part of. In looking at the online logos of other community colleges in the SUNY system, it has been noted that a few have dropped "community college" from their name.

Dr. Mark Harris gave a short presentation on the 2023-2024 budget:

- The data sent for presentation at the December 2022 meeting is already outdated.
- The budget process, timelines, and sources of revenue were briefly explained. Our cost structure ties in with our strategic initiatives.
- NYS Governor Hochul put out an executive budget summary on February 1st providing flat funding. This is not the final budget but some things to note:
 - We requested a 4% COLA which isn't reflected.
 - The negative impact on us means a reduction in funding for child care and EOP.
 - There is a provision for a 20% hold back in state funding for community colleges. This means over \$80 million would be cut from community colleges, which would be about \$10 million for us.
- Unexpected changes in costs were discussed with the Board of Trustees. One example is our healthcare costs, which went up about \$4.2 million.
- HEERF funds have helped us tremendously over the last few years but since it is ending, we can't rely on that funding going forward.
- We have an anticipated minimum gap of about \$18 million. We need to balance the budget which means some priorities may need to be delayed in favor of initiatives that will improve retention and enrollment thereby increasing funding.

Ms. Greene gave a brief update on operational planning:

- The 2022-2023 Operational Plan – January Update was presented for discussion. The document was emailed to the entire membership earlier in the week for review before today's meeting.
- Some of the goals could be tied to diversity but do not have it listed. The request for consideration to make those changes will be forwarded to the relevant cabinet member(s).
- Please provide any additional feedback by Monday. If there is no feedback, the document will be published online.

Ms. Greene briefly discussed Fall 2022 enrollment:

- An Excel workbook containing spreadsheets of various fall census, retention, and credit hours data from Fall 2018 through Fall 2022 was presented and discussed. The workbook was emailed to the entire membership earlier in the week for review before today's meeting.

- As of Fall 2022, our enrollment and retention are still down but we are making progress towards returning to pre-pandemic levels.
- There will be a change next year in how we measure our enrollment success. That conversation is just starting but once we have an idea of what that will look like, it will be brought back to the membership for further discussion and review.
- The educational environment has changed; how it is delivered and who is becoming educated has changed. Looking at our demographic data over the last five (5) years, we have gone from about 33% of our students being people of color to about 50% of our students being people of color; we have more part-time students; and about 8% of our student population have disclosed disabilities.

It was noted by Ms. Greene that she and Professor Koukounas are trying to increase the faculty presence within the SPC to make the membership as inclusive as possible. They have reached out to Governance to help spread the word. Faculty who are not on the SPC have been participating in the subcommittee meetings. Those meetings are held every Wednesday from 10am-11am via Teams and are recorded and can be viewed at a later time if someone is unable to attend. They are getting great feedback both during those meetings and offline.

The floor was opened to additional questions, comments, or concerns. There being none, and with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.